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K-6 Library Curriculum

Reference Sources

Topic: Reference Sources

Grade: 5

Core: RI.5.7

Objectives: Students will be able to identify a variety of reference resources and articulate what kind of information could be found in each resource.

Materials: Almanac, Dictionary, Thesaurus, Encyclopedia, Atlas

Reference Sources handout.

Presentation Guidelines:

You may choose to focus on these resources one or two at a time as this may be less confusing to the students.

Explain that reference sources are kept in their own special place in the library and point out where that is in your library.

Pull out the resource that you will be using and explain to students what is found in it. See explanations for each resource below.

Dictionary:

A dictionary is a book of words and their meanings. A dictionary will also show you how to sound out a word. Arranged alphabetically.

Thesaurus:

A thesaurus is a book of synonyms (words that have similar meanings). Arranged alphabetically.

Encyclopedia:

Encyclopedias have information about people, places, things, or events. It is arranged alphabetically and in multiple volumes.

Almanac:

Almanacs are published yearly so they have up-to-date information on things like the population of a state, the winners of recent awards, and record holders.

Atlas:

An atlas is a book of maps.